

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

18 September 2012

Sixty-eighth session

Geneva, 22-25 October 2012

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Energy labelling, refrigerants and blowing agents

Informal working group on environmental issues

Note by the secretariat

At its sixty-seventh session, WP.11 established an informal working group composed of France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, United States, International Institute of Refrigeration and Transfrigoroute International, with the assistance of the secretariat, to make proposals to WP.11 regarding an environmental programme of work. The following questionnaire was sent to the members. The results are presented after the questionnaire.

1. Please assess the importance of WP.11 addressing the following in its work:

New insulating foams and blowing agents that are both safe and highly effective

High priority Less important

Maximizing energy efficiency to reduce CO₂ emissions, including through enhancements by bodybuilders

High priority Less important

Energy labeling schemes or minimum efficiency standards for equipment

High priority Less important

Recovery, recycling and reclaiming of all refrigerants;

High priority Less important

Reducing the number of pull-down tests allowed before K value has to be measured

High priority Less important

Improving logistics to ensure that all refrigerated transport operations are as efficient as they can be

High priority Less important

Equipment sizing to match the specific need, thereby minimizing the amount of fuel and refrigerant used

High priority Less important

Reducing the noise from compressors

High priority Less important

What other environmental issues should be addressed by WP.11?.....

2. There has traditionally been an agenda item for WP.11 sessions on energy labelling, refrigerants and blowing agents but there has been little discussion under this item. How do you think discussion of these issues could be improved?

By allowing more time for discussion

By more clearly defining an issue of interest and going into more detail

By organizing a half-day round table on an environmental issue during the WP.11 session and inviting outside speakers

Other, please specify.....

3. What in your opinion should be the goal of work on environmental issues?

Introducing specific environmentally oriented provisions into the ATP

Drawing up a list of environmental recommendations to guide ATP competent authorities

Capacity building through the exchange of best practices in the meetings of WP.11

Adding appropriate environmental comments and advice in the ATP Handbook

Collaborating with IIR and TI by addressing environmental issues in joint meetings

Other, please specify, or give concrete examples of items listed above.....

Responses

France, Germany, Portugal, Spain and United States responded to the questionnaire. Where specific comments were made these are attributed to the country that made them.

In response to question 1, all respondents found that new insulating foams and maximizing energy efficiency were high priority.

Four out of five respondents were of the opinion that energy labeling schemes were of less importance.

As regards recovery and recycling of refrigerants, three respondents found it of high priority and two less important. Germany argued that it was not a subject for WP.11 and that European and national legislation is under preparation to cover this.

Reducing the number of pull-down tests was considered high priority by three respondents and less important by the other two respondents.

Improving logistics was of high priority for three respondents and less important for the other two. Germany argued that logistics are dealt with by other organizations.

Equipment sizing was high priority for two respondents and less important for the other three.

Reducing noise was high priority for two respondents and less important for the other three. Germany saw no connection between food safety and noise emissions.

In addition, Germany made the following statement in connection with question 1:

"WP 11 should strictly focus its activities on those items covered by the ATP Agreement and its annexes, i.e. improving the conditions of preservation of the quality of perishable foodstuffs during carriage, particularly in international trade (improving cold chain). Owing to the fact that protection of foodstuffs during transport and protection of the environment have some potential conflict of goals, these two topics should be treated separately. Some environmental aspects may be kept on the WP.11 agenda at a more informal level.

All major environmental topics should be addressed in detail in cooperation with other organizations such as CEN, IIR and Transfrigoroute International. Energy efficiency measurement methodologies for cooling equipment are presently being discussed in CEN. Standard EN 16440-1 is being drafted and will be published soon."

In response to question 2, three respondents thought that WP.11 could improve discussion of environmental issues by more clearly defining an issue of interest and going into more detail.

Germany considered that environmental issues should be dealt with within the standardization bodies, such as CEN/TC 113 as well as IIR committees and Transfrigoroute International.

In response to question 3, opinions were divided. One respondent was in favour of collaboration with IIR and TI, one favoured introducing new provisions into ATP and collaboration with IIR and TI, one favoured adding comments and advice in the ATP Handbook, and one favoured capacity building through the exchange of best practices.

Germany wrote that WP.11 should continue to concentrate on product safety which is the main scope and origin of the ATP. Environmental aspects are becoming more and more important, but should be kept at an informal level in WP.11 meetings and not treated as an additional issue in competition with other associations and organizations.

Conclusions

The responses showed that discussion of environmental issues in WP.11 could be improved by more clearly defining an issue of interest and going into more detail, possibly with the aid of presentations by experts. WP.11 is requested to identify an environmental issue that it would be beneficial to discuss at its next session.

The responses also showed a preference for collaborating with other organizations with expertise in this area such as IIR and TI.

Germany recommended that environmental aspects be kept on an informal level in WP.11.
